MDIFW Wildlife/Habitat Data WFS

Instructions below are for ESRI's ArcGIS software. If you use different GIS software, consult your software manuals for accessing and using a WFS.

First create a connection to the WFS in ArcCatalog:
1. Go to "Interoperability Connections" (requires the Data Interoperability extension!)
2. Select "Add Interoperability Connection"
3. Set Format: WFS (Web Feature Service)
4. Set Dataset:
   http://geolibportal.maine.gov/wms/mapserv.exe?map=c:/wms/IfwOilSpill.map&
5. Click "Settings…"
6. Click "…" button next to Table List:
7. Check the layers you want to add. *Tip – some of the layers (ETSC, Iwwh, Twwh) have many features. A separate WFS connection for each one of the layers may work better than a single WFS with all layers.*
8. Click "OK" to select the layers
9. Click "OK" to close the "Settings" window
10. Click "OK" to create the WFS connection

The first time you use the WFS connection, it will index the features in it. This can take considerable time (this is why it is recommended to create a separate WFS connection for the larger data layers). Once the features have been indexed, you should not have to wait for that again. You can index the features of the WFS by trying to preview it in ArcCatalog or by adding the WFS to ArcMap and trying to display it. *If ArcGIS hangs up while indexing features, try splitting layers into separate WFS connections.*

Once the connection(s) have been created and indexed, you can use them in ArcMap similar to other data sources. Navigate to "Interoperability Connections" and select the WFS. You cannot edit the WFS, but you can export the data from the WFS to a local shapefile or feature class that you can then manipulate. *Warning – local copies made from the WFS are not automatically updated when data in the WFS changes. You have to manually refresh them!*